

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An image reader apparatus for lighting a manuscript surface of a manuscript, which is set on a manuscript stand, in a line state by a light source part, and for image-forming a reflection light from a reading part of the manuscript surface lighted in the line state, to an image sensor, by an image forming lens which forms a part of a scaled down optical system so that an image of the manuscript is read, comprising:

an irradiation opening part for irradiating a lighting light to an outside part, which is formed at the light source; and

an ~~optical element~~ ND filter for attenuating a light amount so as to be permeated, which is provided between the irradiation opening part and the manuscript stand.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): An image reader apparatus for lighting a manuscript surface of a manuscript, which is set on a manuscript stand, in a line state by a cylinder shaped lamp, and for image-forming a reflection light from a reading part of the manuscript surface lighted in the line state, to an image sensor, by an image forming lens which forms a part of a scaled down optical system so that an image of the manuscript is read, comprising:

an irradiation opening part for irradiating a lighting light to an outside part, which is formed at the cylinder shaped lamp and extends in a direction which the lamp extends; and

an ~~optical element~~ ND filter for attenuating a light amount so as to be permeated, which is provided between the irradiation opening part and the manuscript stand.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The image reader apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the cylinder shaped lamp is an Xenon lamp, and the ~~optical element~~ ND filter is provided at the irradiation opening part.

Claim 4 (Original): The image reader apparatus as claimed in claim 2,
wherein the cylinder shaped lamp is moved in a sub scanning direction perpendicular
to a main scanning direction in which the cylinder shaped lamp extends, so that the
manuscript surface of the manuscript is read.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The image reader apparatus as claimed in claim 2,
wherein the ~~optical element is formed by an~~ ND filter ~~having~~ has a surface to which a
light absorbing process is applied.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The image reader apparatus as claimed in claim 2,
wherein the ~~optical element is formed by an~~ ND filter ~~having~~ has a surface to which a
black net point process is applied.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The image reader apparatus as claimed in claim 2,
wherein a permeability rate of the ~~optical element~~ ND filter is set corresponding to an
emission light strength distribution in a direction which the cylinder shaped lamp extends, so
that the permeability rate is set small at a position where the emission light strength
distribution is high, and the permeability rate is set large at a position where the emission
light strength distribution is low.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn) (Currently Amended): The image reader apparatus as claimed
in claim 2,
wherein a reflector is provided so as to face the irradiation opening part of the
cylinder shaped lamp, so that a lighting light from the cylinder shaped lamp is reflected and is

led from a direction facing a direct lighting light that is directly led from the cylinder shaped lamp to the reading part, to the reading part,

the ~~optical element~~ ND filter has a permeable area where the direct lighting light which is directly led from the cylinder shaped lamp to the reading part is permeated, and a permeable area where the lighting light which is led to the reflector is permeated, and

a permeability rate of the permeable area where the lighting light which is led to the reflector is permeated is larger than a permeability rate of the permeable area where the direct lighting light is permeated.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn) (Currently Amended): The image reader apparatus as claimed in claim 2,

wherein a reflector is provided so as to face the irradiation opening part of the cylinder shaped lamp, so that a lighting light from the cylinder shaped lamp is reflected and is led from a direction facing a direct lighting light, which direct lighting light is directly led from the cylinder shaped lamp to the reading part, to the reading part,

the ~~optical element~~ ND filter has a permeable area where the direct lighting light which is directly led from the cylinder shaped lamp to the reading part is permeated, and a permeable area where the lighting light which is led to the reflector is permeated, and

a permeability rate of the permeable area where the lighting light which is led to the reflector is progressively larger, from the permeable area where the direct lighting light which is directly led from the cylinder shaped lamp to the reading part is permeated, to the permeated area where the lighting light which is led to the reflector is permeated.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn) (Currently Amended): The image reader apparatus as claimed in claim 2,

wherein the ~~optical element~~ ND filter shows a color having a supplemental relationship with an emission color of the cylinder shaped lamp.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn) (Currently Amended): The image reader apparatus as claimed in claim 2,

wherein the ~~optical element~~ ND filter cuts a lighting light in an infrared wave length area.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn) (Currently Amended): The image reader apparatus as claimed in claim 2,

wherein the ~~optical element~~ ND filter is formed by a polarization filter.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn) (Currently Amended): The image reader apparatus as claimed in claim 2,

wherein the ~~optical element~~ ND filter is provided so as to be tilted against a segment perpendicularly connecting a center axis of the cylinder shaped lamp and the reading part.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn) (Currently Amended): The image reader apparatus as claimed in claim 2,

wherein a revolving mechanism for rotating the ~~optical element~~ ND filter in a state where a rotational shaft situated in parallel to a direction in which the cylinder shape extends is a center of rotation, so that the optical element can be fixed.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn) (Currently Amended): The image reader apparatus as claimed in claim 2,

wherein the ~~optical element~~ ND filter is provided so as to be separated from the cylinder shaped lamp, and has a surface facing the cylinder shaped lamp that is a curved surface which curves along an external form of the cylinder shaped lamp.

Claims 16-39 (Canceled).